



SOUTH BY SCOOTER

A SHORT FILM BY MAX PIANTONI





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WATCH THE FILM:

Website:

www.maxpiantoni.com/southbyscooter

YouTube:

<http://youtu.be/ANbsGrXk88g>

Vimeo:

<https://vimeo.com/72790723>

TECHNICAL DETAILS:

Directed by Max Piantoni.

Run time: approx. 6 minutes.

Format: HD, Digital, 16:9.

Colour, stereo, no dialogue.

Made in Australia in 2013.

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Film website:

www.maxpiantoni.com/southbyscooter

SYNOPSIS

South By Scooter follows an ambitious young man as he attempts to mount an expedition to the South Pole entirely within the spare room of his house. The short film playfully conjures an epic account of exploration and adventure from meticulously handmade felt props, a cascade of endearing set pieces and the continually surprising experiences of an adventurer determined to realise his dream of polar glory. Using only the tools that he has at hand, and a whole lot of imagination, our hero sets out into the unknown.

As the scooting-man's journey progresses his imagined antarctic world springs into life. Drawing ever closer to the pole, he encounters a series of inspiring and challenging situations that emphasise the importance of willpower and persistence in achieving your dreams, the potential loneliness of doing things that have never been done before, and the importance of doing these new things in your own way. He experiences first hand the power of true friendship, the value of achieving difficult goals, and the importance of remaining true to yourself and your aspirations.

South By Scooter features enthusiastically handmade felt props and costumes, and emphasises the value of play in achieving life ambitions and desires, no matter the age of the viewer.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The idea for South By Scooter arrived with a discarded little scooter on the side of the road. Whilst I was struggling to ride it up a hill it occurred to me just how difficult it would be to ride one across the Antarctic ice to the South Pole. Like many, I have always wanted to go to the South Pole and I quickly saw making this film as an opportunity to do just that.

The premise of riding a scooter to the pole is absurd - and probably impossible. If you stop at any point during the film and ask 'Why? Why is this young man trying to ride a scooter to the South Pole? And why is he doing it *inside his house!*?' I suppose the answer is because he really really wants to go. This is where I see the beauty in South By Scooter; the lengths to which our hero has gone so that he can play out his absurd fantasy. The hope is that his spirit is transferable to you and whatever fantasy you may have, so that you can come along for the ride and play out your own desires.

I chose to encourage our hero's fantasy by constructing all of the props and costumes out of felt, and by pairing back the Antarctica set to it's most minimal possible elements - just a white wall, a sheet, and a skirting board - to highlight how little is necessary to spark playful make-believe, and to spark the same feeling in the viewers.

In many ways the scooting-man's adventure mirrors my experiences making this film. I delighted in the whole process, and approached it determined to make something bigger than I'd ever made before. I made each aspect of South By Scooter myself, including the props, costumes, music and everything else. I wanted to make a rough and ready little epic, a film that tells a large scale story in a charming and humorously handmade way.

I hope you enjoy it.

DIRECTOR'S BIO



Max Piantoni is a young Artist and Filmmaker from Melbourne, Australia. Max's work features a distinctively playful handmade style, designed to welcome viewers to inhabit and enjoy the alternate worlds that he creates. Max often uses his art as an excuse to do the things that he has always wanted to do. As a result his work encourages viewers young and old to enter into a state of make believe, to empathise with his aspirations - and to achieve their own. Through photographs Max has journeyed to the Moon in [Max To Moon](#) and flown with Dodos in [The Descent of the Dodo](#). Max's short film debut *South By Scooter* documents his attempt to reach the South Pole.

Max completed study at the Victorian College of the Arts in 2010 and since then has exhibited work in several galleries around Melbourne. Starting out as a photographer, Max's work is no longer restricted to any one medium. A single work can incorporate felt, sewing, performance, sculpture music and more. Though, ultimately Max uses the eye of the camera to communicate his constructed scenarios to the world.

For more about Max visit www.maxpiantoni.com

PRODUCTION NOTES & ANECDOTES

- South By Scooter was filmed, entirely in the spare room of Max Piantoni's parent's house. There was barely enough space in the room for the set, so the camera had to be placed in the corridor and shoot through the open door. Max's parents Liz and Peter feature in the film, portraying the snowstorm, and assisted off camera in a few of the scenes that required more than one pair of hands.
- The first step in production - and Max's favorite part - was making the felt props and costumes, Max made them one at a time, building his dream exploration kit. Prior to this film Max had never used a sewing machine, but the volume of scarfs needed for the survival suit and the complexity of the other props and costumes such as the mission sneakers meant that sewing on a machine was essential.
- Max works with felt because he feels it is a fun, impressionistic, material able to create lively caricatures of his objects and scenarios. 'To work with felt' says Max 'is to paint with a broad brush'.
- Although the film is set in freezing Antarctica, it was filmed over a hot Australian summer. The combined heat of summer, the small set, studio lights and the extra warm survival-suit costume made depicting a cold climate challenging and often uncomfortable.
- The film is a sequel of sorts to Max's 2010 photoplay 'Max To Moon' in which he attempted to become the first 'Amateur-Astronaut' to reach the Moon.
- The rig used to make the 'ice' glide in front of the camera was constructed from model train parts and derailed constantly, Liz Indrans who was tasked with moving the ice in sync with Max's mimed scooting had a frustrating job, these shots took a couple of days to get right. The ice is made from torn paper.
- South By Scooter is a silent film. It features no dialogue - in part to underscore the solitary position of the protagonist and as a nod to the adventure films of Georges Méliès.
- Max loves practical special effects. There is only one scene in the film that features a digital effect.
- The film was self funded by Max, but had practically no budget. This is Max's first Short film, it took roughly six months to complete.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

By Max Piantoni: South By Scooter was entirely handmade by Max Piantoni. Including all aspects of pre-production, production, and post-production. Max's major credits include: written by, directed by, production design, director of photography, edited by, special effects, foley, music and starring.

Cast:

- Max Piantoni** as Max
- Liz Indrans** as The Wind
- Liz & Peter Piantoni** as The Snowstorm
- Bill & Reg** as The Cats

FILM STILLS

High-resolution files of the pictures included in the document and additional promotional materials can be downloaded from www.maxpiantoni.com/southbyscooter